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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Referendum Watch

- UNSC has not yet decided to create a buffer zone – SRS (Dailies)
- UN to send 100 extra troops to Sudan's tense Abyei (Reuters)
- UNMIS says no decision made on additional troops to North-South borders (ST)
- Government conveys to Menkerios its reservation on buffer zone (Al-Sahafa)
- NCP official says SPLA is preparing for war (Al-Ahdath)
- NCP parliamentary bloc calls for delay of the referenda (Al-Ahdath)
- South Sudanese agree on post-secession elections, census (Reuters)
- George Athor to assume his seat in the SPLA – GoSS VP (the Citizen)
- South-South dialogue positive step – Nafie (Al-Sudani)
- South Sudan calls for immediate withdrawal of SAF from Unity state (ST)
- We seek to avert war between North and South – Defence Minister (Al-Rai Al-Aam)
- Deputy Chief Administrator says security situation in Abyei stable (Sudan Vision)
- SSRC asks for funding, proposes amendment of timetable (Al-Rai Al-Aam)
- Presidency meeting postponed (Al-Sudani)
- Blue Nile assembly earmarks SDG15 million for popular Consultations (Al-Rai Al-Aam)
- Sudan TV and South Sudan TV to team up for referenda (Juba Post)

## Other Headlines

- South Africa's president appoints special envoy to Sudan (ST)
- Sustainable peace in Darfur must be inclusive – UN chief (ST)
- W. Equatoria welcomes creation of African forces to respond to LRA rebels (ST)

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# Highlights

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## **UNSC has not yet decided to create a buffer zone – SRSG**

*Local dailies* 19/10/10 – SRSG and Head of UNMIS Haile Menkerios told a press conference yesterday that no decision has been made by the Security Council to create a buffer zone or to deploy troops at hotspots between the North and the South.

According to *Al-Sahafa* 19/10/10, the SRSG revealed that an additional company has been deployed in Abyei with the full knowledge of the two parties, adding the JDB and the cease-fire monitoring mechanisms would meet next week to discuss concerns about alleged troop buildup on the part of SPLA and SAF. He said the Mission did not monitor any troop buildup and that such concerns should be referred to joint mechanisms.

The SRSG also indicated the recent accusations and counteraccusations between the CPA parties over media reports of buffer zone and troop deployment between the North and the South.

On referendum, *Al-Rai Al-Aam* 19/10/10 reports the SRSG as saying that UNMIS is doing its best to assist the parties to conduct the process on schedule despite the short time left.

## **UN to send 100 extra troops to Sudan's tense Abyei**

*Reuters* (Khartoum) 18/10/10 - The United Nations is sending 100 more troops to Sudan's oil-producing Abyei region to step up security ahead of a referendum that could pitch the area back into bloodshed.

"UNMIS (the U.N. mission) has been making adjustments to the deployment of their existing troops ... throughout the ceasefire zone to defuse tensions where they exist -- Abyei is an example," the top U.N. official in Sudan, Haile Menkerios, told reporters on Monday.

Officials from UNMIS, the U.N. mission monitoring the north-south peace deal, said a company of about 100 troops would be sent.

Menkerios said no decision had been made on increasing the 10,000-strong mission in order to police a buffer zone along the disputed north-south border. South Sudan's President Salva Kiir requested the additional troops during a visit to Sudan by U.N. Security Council envoys this month.

"Indeed the U.N. is assessing the needs and will continue to consult with the parties on how best it can assist them to respond to these needs," Menkerios said.

## **UNMIS says no decision made on additional troops to North-South borders**

*Sudan Tribune website* 18/10/10 - The UN's top diplomat in Sudan said on Monday that one company of UN troops – around 100 soldiers – had been moved to Abyei to diffuse mounting tensions in the disputed area.

Haile Menkerios the Special Representative of the Secretary General in Sudan said today that the additional troops sent to Abyei were reserves from existing troop numbers that were already overstretched.

The deployment of UN troops to defuse tensions within the ceasefire zone was done “with the full knowledge of the two parties” and was “consistent” with the UN Mission in Sudan’s mandate, said Menkerios.

He acknowledged the bitter exchanges regarding a potential buffer zone using additional UN troops and alleged troop build ups near the border between the SPLM and NCP but said: "Let me however state categorically, that while the Security Council and the Secretary General have expressed their readiness to consider additional support to address security concerns, no decision has yet been made by them for additional troops, their deployment or conditions of their deployment."

Menkerios appealed to the two parties to address the challenges that lie ahead “to see the peace process through to its peaceful, amicable and timely conclusion.”

He revealed that a meeting between President Omer Al-Bashir and Kiir was imminent to smooth the way for further talks in Addis Ababa, which are due to recommence 27 October.

### **Government conveys to Menkerios its reservation on “buffer zone”**

*Al-Sahafa* 19/10/10 – Foreign Office Undersecretary Rahama Mohamed Osman has conveyed to SRSG and Head of UNMIS Haile Menkerios his Government’s reservations on the manner in which the buffer zone matter is being raised.

At a meeting with Menkerios yesterday, Rahama stressed the need for coordination to achieve the desired goals for which the Mission is established based on its mandate.

Foreign Ministry’s spokesperson Muawia Khaled told reporters yesterday that the meeting between Rahama and Menkerios also touched on the political developments in the country and the ongoing efforts by the Sudanese Government to create a conducive atmosphere for the conduct of the upcoming referendum.

*Al-Rai Al-Aam* 19/10/10, reports that the Ministry yesterday summoned the SRSG to convey to him the Sudanese Government’s rejection of deployment of UN troops between the South and the North.

### **NCP official says SPLA is preparing for war**

*Al-Ahdath* 19/10/10 – The NCP has accused its SPLM partner of coordinating with “international troops” to create a buffer zone between the North and the South and of preparing for war. Qutbi Al-Mahdi, a senior NCP leader, cited as evidence to these accusations the SPLM’s objection to the border demarcation exercise, its military movements in some areas north of the 1.1.1956 borderline such as Joda, Kurmuk and Abyei.

Qutbi denied SPLM accusations that recent movements of the SAF show the northern army is preparing for war. He pointed out that it is natural that the SAF moves its troops anywhere, without exception, within Sudan’s boundaries but has never moved anywhere south of the

1.1.1956 line.

### **NCP parliamentary bloc calls for delay of the referenda**

*Al-Ahdath* et al Khartoum, 19/10/10 – The NCP parliamentary bloc has called upon the Parliament to endorse a proposed bill for a delay of the referenda pending resolution of issues such as border demarcation, external debts and nationality issues. They underlined the need for the adoption of the bill so that it could be tabled before the Presidency for approval.

Deputy Speaker Hajo Gism-al-Sid also proposed that the parliamentary committee on unity support be charged with the role of referendum monitoring in order to ensure that foreign observers do not dominate the exercise.

Meanwhile, *Al-Sahafa* reports that NCP and SPLM lawmakers were in disagreement over the issue of buffer zone, with SPLM lawmakers saying this is part of a requirement for keeping the peace and the NCP officials describing such a move as international interference in the country's domestic affairs.

### **South Sudanese agree on post-secession elections, census**

*Reuters* (Khartoum) 18/10/10 - More than 20 southern Sudanese political parties have agreed to hold a fresh census, new elections and rewrite the constitution if the south secedes as expected in less than three months.

The five-day conference in the southern capital Juba also agreed that a broad-based, post-secession interim government would be headed by South Sudan President Salva Kiir until new elections.

"The transitional government shall be charged...with the duty to conduct (a) population census and general elections for a constituent assembly which shall promulgate the permanent constitution," according to the conference's final communiqué sent to Reuters on Monday.

The conference, attended by political parties, civil society and religious groups, specified a constitutional review commission would decide the length of the interim period before new elections if southerners voted for secession in a Jan. 9 referendum.

If unity was the result of the vote, the communiqué said, the south would ensure the region maintains representation in the national government.

The conference included southern opposition politicians in an effort to preserve the unity of the semi-autonomous region. Kiir had previously granted an amnesty offered to militia leaders who had been fighting the southern government over alleged fraud in April elections.

Some analysts have said southern ethnic tensions could erupt into clashes if secession goes ahead as the loss of a common enemy in the northern government would reveal their divisions.

The conference also agreed that the southern referendum on independence should take place as scheduled on Jan. 9, 2011 and that both options -- unity and independence -- be given equal air time on state and private media throughout Sudan.

According to *Sudan Tribune website* 18/10/10, The Southern Sudan political parties conference in the region's capital, Juba, have come out with a united voice and called for timely and transparent conduct of the region's referendum on independence scheduled for January 9, 2011.

On Sunday, the text of the conference's resolutions, political parties' code of conduct for the referendum and final communiqué were read out and signed by the leaders and representatives of all the 23 political parties which participated in the convention.

The signing ceremony took place in the presence of South Sudan President Salva Kiir, who is also the chairman of the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

Two small political parties who were invited failed in sending their representatives to the conference. Southern Sudanese leaders who are members of northern political parties were also invited to the conference.

After the resolutions were read out by the minister of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development, John Luk Jok, the Vice President and deputy chairman of the SPLM, Riek Machar, who was the chairman of the five-day conference, announced the passing of the resolutions amidst applause, ululations and music.

The gathering committed the parties to achieve reconciliation in the region and commended the decision made by Kiir to pardon all the officers and men in uniform who rebelled against the government before and after April elections. Kiir has urged them to abandon their rebellion and rejoin the army.

Maj Gen Gabriel Tanginye and Maj Gen Mabor Dhol have taken up Kiir's call for southern unity ahead of the referendum and joined the SPLM, the former rebels who govern southern Sudan, last week.

Gen George Athor has reportedly responded positively to Kiir's overtures but did not attend the conference, but sent a delegation to represent him at the closing ceremony of the conference on Sunday.

The conference resolved that if the south voted for unity the region would participate in the Sudan's constitutional review.

"In the event of a decision of the people of Southern Sudan in the referendum becoming unity, the South [shall] be prepared to effectively participate in the constitutional review process that will follow the referendum in order to safeguard the gains of the South in the new dispensation in the country," the resolution reads.

If the south votes for separation, then the conference resolved that Southern Sudan's government would establish a national constitutional review commission to review the current interim constitution of Southern Sudan for adoption by the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) as a transitional constitution.

The parties also decided that an all-party constitutional conference would be convened, in the event of secession, to deliberate and adopt a new constitutional system of an independent and sovereign state.

The purpose of this constitutional conference would be to agree on the formation of an interim broad-based transitional government under the President of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), Salva Kiir.

The transitional government shall be charged, among other things, with the duty to conduct fresh population census and general elections for a constituent assembly to vote the transitional constitution into being.

The constitutional conference would also decide on the length of the interim period, necessary to carry out general elections for constituent assembly.

In order to ensure effective implementation of the conference resolutions, a Leadership Consultative Forum was formed under the GoSS President with members from all 23 political parties at the conference.

The chairman of the conference, Riek Machar, on Monday announced that another leadership forum meeting will take place before the conduct of the referendum and another one after the conduct of the referendum.

The conference also stressed the importance of strengthening relations between northern and south Sudan in the event of secession.

President Kiir has said he is committed to implement all the resolutions passed by the political parties' conference.

The conference ended with leaders of the political parties taking a group picture as a sign of unity and reconciliation among the political forces.

### **George Athor to assume his seat in the SPLA – GoSS VP**

*The Citizen Juba*, 19/10/10 – Renegade SPLA general, George Athor, will assume his former position in the army, according to GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar.

Speaking to the press shortly after a meeting with chairs of the various political parties in Juba yesterday, the VP said that the move is in line with the amnesty recently issued by the GoSS President.

“The executive pardon was very clear that they will return to their former positions in the SPLA,” he said.

### **South-South dialogue positive step – Nafie**

*Al-Sudani* 19/10/10 – The National Congress Party (NCP) announced that it would do its utmost to ensure that the upcoming referendum reflects the will of the southern Sudanese.

Presidential Assistant and NCP Deputy Chairman Nafie Ali Nafie told reporters yesterday after a meeting of his party's leaders that the meeting focused on a range of reports on Darfur issue, upcoming referendum as well as the need for a joint work between the NCP and other political parties to preserve unity of the country. Nafie has described the south-south dialogue conference

convened recently in Juba as a positive step.

### **South Sudan calls for immediate withdrawal of SAF from Unity state**

*Sudan Tribune website* 18/10/10 - Authorities from oil-producing Unity state in south Sudan have called for the immediate withdrawal of forces belonging to the Sudan Armed Forces of the government in Khartoum.

Simon Mayiik, a senior member of the SPLM told Sudan Tribune in Juba on Monday that there has been an increased deployment of Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) troops in Parieng County, Unity state.

“They must be withdrawn immediately if the National Congress Party has no intention to return the country back to war,” said Mayiik a senior member of the southern ruling party who attended the recent Southern Political Parties’ Conference as an SPLM delegate from Unity state.

Mayiik, accused President Omar al-Bashir of being behind the deployment of the SAF into southern territory.

“I am told by several credible sources from within the northern army that he (President Bashir on October 14, 2010, issued an order instructing [the] ministry of defense to reduce deployment of Sudan Armed Forces in the central and northern states and increase deployment into southern territory at strategic places. The order also instructed the army to collaborate with any of the active southern militia group.”

The official further said that the deployment of the SAF in southern territory was part of a plan by the National Congress Party to forcefully keep the country together.

“Several attempts to unite the south with the north on voluntary basis have failed. This was why President Bashir regretted recently for having signed this peace. And because he wants unity by all means, he has now embarked on an alternative plan to achieve it by sending forces he commands as commander in chief to provoke return to war so that they continue benefit from our resources if war resumes,” said Mayiik.

Stephen Miabek Lang, commissioner of Parieng County, told Sudan Tribune on Sunday that the SAF have increasingly strengthened their original troop numbers.

Soldiers belonging to the SAF have increasingly been deployed "beyond [their] territorial jurisdiction in the area,” he said warning that this would escalate tension between the two regions if it was not addressed urgently.

Commissioner Lang called on the international community to quickly exert pressure on National Congress Party to withdraw SAF from southern territory.

Echoing Mayiik’s assessment, Lang also believes that the presence of forces belonging to the SAF in the south shows that the NCP was ready to return the country to war.

According to Lang, the SAF used to have no more than a battalion in Parieng County, but it had increased to “five times the previous number”. The new forces that had entered southern territory

he said were equipped with modern weapons.

The SPLM official said that main areas of new SAF deployment in Unity state are in Kaloch, Bambo, Warabet and Gong Riak.

All these areas, said Lang, are far away from the 1 January 1956 north-south border Sudan inherited from Britain when it achieved independence.

“They are very far and deep inside southern territory,” he said.

The SAF deployment in the in Parieng County, Lang said, was a clear and “unacceptable” violation of the security arrangement protocol of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which ended the conflict.

He called on the international community, especially those involved in the CPA to assist the parties in implementing the remainder of the peace deal.

The commissioner commended local people for not reacting violently, adding that he had brought the issue to the attention of the United Nations Mission in Sudan’s office in Bentui, the capital of Unity State.

Lang told Sudan Tribune that UNMIS had asked him to verify his complaints but they have forwarded them to the UNMIS head office in Khartoum.

An UNMIS official in Bentui confirmed that the complaints had been forwarded to Khartoum to get approval to visit the areas in question, said the official who declined to be named.

### **We seek to avert war between North and South – Defence Minister**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam* 19/10/10 – Defence Minister Abdul Rahim Mohamed Hussein said the Sudanese Government is keen to avoid a war between the North and the South over referendum on self-determination for southern Sudan. “We are keen to avoid a renewed war. We have agreed to organize referendum to avert war,” he said.

Hussein, who made the remarks after a meeting yesterday with Egyptian Foreign Minister Abu Al-Gheith, said the Sudanese Government is also keen to resolve the contentious issues that might reignite war such as Abyei, identity and border issues.

*Sudan Vision* 19/10/10 reports that Hussein, commenting on media reports on buffer zone, said this call is an indication for bad intentions because peace cannot be imposed by force. General Hussein further added that he has discussed with the Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs the preparation for South Sudan referendum, its mechanisms and the consultations between Sudan and Egypt.

*Reuters* 19/10/10 reports Hussein said today that Jan. 9 referendum on independence for southern Sudan and on whether the oil-rich area of Abyei should join the north or south should be delayed.

Asked if the referendum should be delayed, Abdel Rahim Mohamed Hussein said "According to



the reality on the ground, yes. Border issues and Abyei must be resolved within the framework of one nation."

### **Deputy Chief Administrator says security situation in Abyei stable**

*Sudan Vision* 19/10/10 - Abyei Deputy Chief Administrator Rahma Abdalrahman Al Nour has described claims of tense situation in Abyei region as baseless, affirming stability of security situation in the territory.

In a statement to *Sudan Vision*, Al-Nour dismissed reports circulated by the media saying that the area is witnessing massive displacement of people, stressing that citizens are leading a normal life.

### **SSRC asks for funding, proposes amendment of timetable**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam* 19/10/10 – The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) has urged the central government, GoSS and donors to honour their financial commitments towards the SSRC and proposed the reduction of the 3-month period between registration and voting to seven days.

SSRC spokesperson Jamal Mohamed Ibrahim told reporters yesterday that funding is an obstacle for the Commission and called on the parties concerned to honour their commitments to enable it to carry out its task. Jamal denied that the SSRC in Juba received funds and material.

### **Presidency meeting postponed**

*Al-Sudani* 19/10/10 – GoSS high-level source said FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit could not travel to Khartoum because his physician advised him to rest for at least three days to recover from malaria. According to the sources, Kiir's absence would mean the Presidency meeting scheduled for Monday was postponed. The source added that Kiir's aides would fix a new date for the meeting in coordination with the Presidency.

### **Blue Nile assembly earmarks SDG15 million for popular Consultations**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam* Khartoum, 19/10/10 – The Parliamentary Commission on Popular Consultation in the Blue Nile State has concluded drafting a general budget for the January 2011 popular consultation exercise, says Khidir Al-Jak, the head of the parliamentary economic committee. Al-Jak who is also a member of the Popular Consultation parliamentary commission said that they have drafted a budget to the tune of SDG15 million for the process. He said that they have received pledges of support from UN agencies and US organizations of support for the exercise but expressed confidence that the state might be able to meet the cost.

### **Sudan TV and South Sudan TV to team up for referenda**

*The Juba Post Juba*, 19/10/10 – GoSS Minister of Information, Barnaba Benjamin, has held talks with a delegation from Sudan Television (STV) led by Director-General Hatim Mohamed Suleiman to pave way for coordination with South Sudan Television (SSTV) on referendum coverage.

The GoSS minister pointed out that the talks were a follow up on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding recently signed by his ministry and its federal counterpart that lays out areas and modalities of cooperation between the two television stations.

The STV delegation said that their station intends to open regional stations in Wau, Juba and Malakal.

## Other Highlights

### **South Africa's president appoints special envoy to Sudan**

*Sudan Tribune website* 18/10/10 - The president of South Africa Jacob Zuma announced on Monday that he has tapped his political adviser, Charles Nqakula, to be his special envoy to Sudan.

The position of special envoy is a newly created one by Zuma.

"This is a strong reflection of South Africa's commitment to assisting Sudan overcome the challenges that the country faces," said the presidency in a statement published on its website.

South Africa currently chairs the African Union Ministerial Committee on the Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development of the Sudan and has been actively engaged in efforts to ensure smooth implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed between the National Congress Party (NCP) and Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM).

### **Sustainable peace in Darfur must be inclusive – UN chief**

*Sudan Tribune website* 18/10/10 - UN chief hailed today ongoing efforts to conclude a peace agreement between the Sudanese government and a rebel group in Doha although he stressed the need for an all-embracing agreement for a lasting peace.

Ban Ki-Moon made his remarks after being briefed by the African Union - United Nations Chief Mediator for peace in Darfur Sunday in Morocco. Djibril Bassole informed the secretary General on the progress achieved in Doha between Sudanese government and rebel Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM).

Delegations from the Sudanese government and LJM rebels will meet tomorrow with the joint mediator and the Qatari state minister for foreign affairs to assess progress made in the negotiations and to prepare a final peace agreement.

"The Secretary-General welcomed this progress but stressed that, for the agreement to be sustainable, it had to be all inclusive and address the root causes of the problems," said a press statement put out by Farhan Haq, the Deputy Spokesman for the UN Secretary-General.

Bassole also discussed with Ban-KiMoon contacts conducted with the rebel groups in the Justice and Equality Movement (LJM) and Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM).

The mediator told Sudan Tribune he seeks to bring JEM and SLM to Doha because without them "peace will remain fragile and unstable".

He told the UN chief he hoped that the deal under elaboration in Doha "would be endorsed by the groups that have stayed away from the process so far".

## **W. Equatoria welcomes creation of African forces to respond to LRA rebels**

*Sudan Tribune website* 18/10/10 - The governor of Western Equatoria state (WES), which has been badly affected by the rebel Lord's Resistance Army, Col Bangasi Joseph Bakosoro has welcomed an African Union move to form a joint regional military response to the insurgents.

Speaking to the Sudan Tribune from his office on Monday 18 October, governor Bakosoro said that "the long awaited initiative by the four affected countries to come up with strategies to bring an end the LRA atrocities is incredible."

The governor has high hopes for the combined force asking, "How LRA rebels can defeat the International Community, IGAD, and the[se] four power[ful] armies?"

The governor urged the four countries "to form a combat force that will squeeze the centre-command of Joseph Kony and his scattered cruel fighters."

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